Counselor Name: Karen Ward
Title of Lesson: Blended Families

Audience: ☒ Classroom ☒ Small Group
Level: ☒ Primary (K-2) ☒ Intermediate (3-5)
Target Grade: 3rd & 5th

COUNSELING STANDARDS

ACADEMIC
1. Students will acquire attitudes, knowledge and skills that contribute to effective learning in school and across the life span. ☐
2. Students will complete school with academic preparation essential to choose from a wide range of substantial post-secondary options, including college. ☐
3. Students will understand the relationship of academics to the world of work and to life at home and in the community. ☐

CAREER
4. Students will acquire the skills to investigate the world of work in relation to knowledge of self and to make informed career decisions. ☐
5. Students will employ strategies to achieve future career goals with success and satisfaction. ☐
6. Students will understand the relationships between personal qualities, education, training and the world of work. ☐

PERSONAL/SOCIAL
7. Students will acquire the knowledge, attitudes and interpersonal skills to help them understand and respect self and others. ☒
8. Students will make decisions, set goals, and take necessary action to achieve goals. ☐
9. Students will understand safety and survival skills. ☐

COUNSELING COMPETENCY(IES)
Demonstrate skills in resolving conflicts with peers and adults.

STATE STANDARDS:
Reading P.O. Extract information from graphic organizers (e.g., webs, Venn diagrams, flow charts) to comprehend text.
Writing P.O. Use organizational strategies (e.g., graphic organizer, KWL chart, log) to plan writing.
Math P.O.

MATERIALS/RESOURCES:
The book Love Is A Family by Roma Downey.
Tiny book directions (attached)
A handout with a circle divided into 2, 4, 6, 8 sections

ACTIVITY:
Ask students: what is a blended family? Read Love Is A Family. Ask, what do you think Lily meant when she said I want a real family? (She wanted a different family.) Have a discussion about what the students feel is a real family. Make sure they understand that a real family is being
with people who love you. Have the students tell what kind of families were talked about in the book. List these on the board. Ask if they can think of any other ways a family might look. Make the point that sometimes families blend together after a divorce or death in the family. What happens when two families try to become one. Ask, what would be hard about blending families; what would be fun about blending families? For younger students do a pie organizer. Divide the pie into 2, 4, 6 or 8 pieces depending on the age. Have students write or draw the things that could be better with a blended family. For older students, create the tiny book. The book will have 8 pages when complete. Here are some suggestions for topics: my family looks like this; this is how I found out that I would have two families as one; how I heard about the new family; how I feel about the new family; make a list of some things you can do to help the family work together and be happy; what do you need from your family,

**EVALUATION:**

*Pretest/Postest:* What is a blended family?

*How did the student change as a result of this lesson?* Student will acquire skills to cope with a blended family.

*Information/Comments/Follow-up:* Some students may need to be placed in a support group.
Making a Tiny Book

1. Fold the paper in half. Fold in half again. Open it up.

2. Fold the paper in half vertically and open it up. (There will be eight boxes.)

3. Fold the paper in half over your original fold. Cut a slit to the FIRST FOLD ONLY.

4. Open up the sheet and fold along the long fold. Now begin to push both ends towards the middle.

5. Keep pushing in to the center until it is flat. Turn the sides in the same direction to complete the tiny book.